

STATEWIDE WATER ADVISORY GROUP MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Number 2, May 19, 2006, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

I. Introduction, Review of May 5 Meeting

Tom Carr welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed everyone that the Ft. McDowell Yavapai Tribe was now a member of the Statewide Water Advisory Group (SWAG). Each member was provided a packet, which included a summary of the comments made at the last meeting. Tom asked the members who had made comments at the last meeting to look over the summary of comments to make sure their comments had been accurately and completely captured. If changes were needed, members were asked to draft their changes on the summary provided and hand them back after the meeting or to email them to us no later than Monday, May 22.

II. Continuation of Issue, Problems and Concerns

Herb Dishlip provided an introduction of the agenda for the meeting. The first activity was a continuation of the round table exercise started at the May 5, 2006 meeting in which members were asked to make three lists. The first list identified the members' perceived water related issues. The second list identified the resource institutions that need to be preserved. The third list identified how to fix the problem.

The members who did not have the opportunity at the last SWAG meeting to speak were asked to address the questions.

Tom O'Halleran, State Representative

Perceived water issues:

1. Finite groundwater resources in rural Arizona
2. Minimal tax base to finance infrastructure
3. Lack of coordination within groundwater basins
4. Indian water rights settlements/adjudication need to be addressed
5. Local control of water resources to meet growth needs
6. Growth
7. Lack of data to develop a sound water management philosophy that balances supply and demand

Water institutions to preserve:

1. Solid Economy
2. Quality of life
3. Property rights with balance between existing land owners and future growth

What you would do to fix problem:

1. Make sure we recognize the problems we are facing. With the recognition of the problem, solutions will follow
2. Initiate a higher level of water conservation in rural Arizona

Steve Olson, AMWUA

Perceived water issues:

1. Everyone competing for the same water resources
2. Status of water supply not known in most of the State
3. Reporting of water use not required
4. Lack of funding mechanism to finance infrastructure

5. Perception that others will solve their problems
6. No adequate tools to link growth to available supplies

Water institutions to preserve:

1. People need to be able to solve their problems
2. Preserve safe yield goal
3. Preserve Prior Appropriation Doctrine
4. Preserve Assured/Adequate water supply and perhaps expand to non-AMA areas
5. Property rights, especially water rights

What you would do to fix problem:

1. Enhance the ADWR role as provider of information, database
2. Change focus of ADWR from only compliance to agency that makes things happen
3. Monitor and meter all wells
4. Water development paid for by those who benefit

Greg Kornrumpf, SRP

Perceived water issues:

1. Uncertainty of long-term legal and physical availability of water supplies to sustain existing and future water use. This problem is not being helped by the delay in the Adjudications.

Water institutions to preserve:

1. Preserve all. Investments have been made based on these institutions and a change would cause many problems. The lack of enforcement of those institutions is the real problem.

What you would do to fix problem:

1. Provide ADWR the resources to identify the legal and physical availability of water, to provide technical support to the Adjudication, and to complete additional monitoring.
2. Identify funding mechanisms and programs for water infrastructure needs.

Peter Culp, Attorney

Perceived water issues:

1. Disconnect between groundwater and surface water, land uses and people verses environmental needs
2. Rapid growth on limited resources
3. Poor planning with short-term planning horizon leads to crisis management
4. Assumption that water limits growth may lead to reductions in agriculture and environmental consequences and a lot of ongoing uncertainty

Water institutions to preserve:

1. ADWR
2. All sources of information
3. Local control
4. Vested rights (prior appropriation)
5. Riparian values

What you would do to fix problem:

1. Recognize climate variability in planning efforts
2. Integrate regional and local planning
3. More resources of ADWR
4. Link between surface water, groundwater, land use and needs
5. Conservation, but recognize the challenge between conservation of water and conserving environmental benefits dependent on return flows.

6. Flexibility with vested rights system
7. Local control important, but need a State backstop; something to make it happen

Tom Griffin, Mohave County Water Authority

Perceived water issues:

1. Limited availability of Colorado River, which is the only source of water available to us
2. Long-term water supply for growth
3. Local control or lack thereof
4. Conservation measures
5. Funding for projects and studies
6. Drought solutions
7. Lack of well drilling rules that consider neighboring wells
8. Primary focus for solving water issues has been Central Arizona without concern for rest of State
9. Wildcat subdivisions
10. Water Quality
11. Areas that have depleted their groundwater supplies are looking for water from the Colorado River

Water institutions to preserve:

1. ADWR, but with more resources
2. Arizona Water Bank Authority
3. 100 year water supply requirement
4. Local control
5. Agriculture, rural Arizona community diversity
6. Instream flows in Colorado for recreation and tourism

What you would do to fix problem:

1. Increase budget for ADWR
2. Local controls authorized by the legislature
3. Prohibit growth on interim water supply
4. Support State funding for water projects
5. Resolve uncertainty of the Colorado River accounting surface area
6. Establish better well permitting
7. Adopt shortage sharing agreement between the communities on the Colorado River and the CAP
8. Support land fallowing and banking saved water in Lake Mead for use during shortage by 4th priority water users
9. Work with ADEQ on water quality
10. Leave 165,000 acre-feet of 4th priority water for use by communities on the Colorado River
11. Permit revolving fund in name of user at AWBA as credits are replaced. MCWA has agreed to pay for firming of their banked water and recommends that there be a revolving account set up at the AWBA that would show withdraws and replacement credits (when paid for) in MCWA's accounts.

Brad Hill, City of Peoria

Perceived water issues:

1. Insufficient renewable supplies for rural Arizona
2. Insufficient data and tools to make sound water management decisions
3. Unclear long-term goals outside of AMAs

Water institutions to preserve:

1. Existing structure for water rights
2. Assured water supply and safe-yield goal
3. General Plan elements of Growing Smarter, but expanded and strengthened

What you would do to fix problem:

1. "Connect the dots" between growth and water in rural areas
2. Educate rural communities on how to adopt water policies
3. All funding outside of AMAs must come with water management requirement
4. Look to lessons learned from the past for solving water issues
5. Give ADWR and rural communities the tools they need

Kay Dyson, Mayor of Springerville

Perceived water issues:

1. Old water and irrigation systems that do not meet current demands
 - a. Solution: planning and technical support, financial assistance, and new ways to manage water
2. Poor health of watershed
3. Lack of studies and data
4. Political and special interest groups verses big picture planning
5. No regional water district

Water institutions to preserve:

1. Local discernment of water issues critical, but need guidelines, studies, and technical assistance
2. No unfunded mandates
3. Collaboration among agencies, but expanded
4. Preserve riparian areas and streams

What you would do to fix problem:

1. Cloud seeding and other alternatives for enhancing water supplies
2. Enhance reuse of effluent in rural areas
3. More conservation with incentives
4. Plan all water management on watershed basis and only provide funding assistance to those areas planning for the entire watershed.
5. More collaboration among all players

Robert Shuler, Western Growers

Perceived water issues:

1. Perception that agricultural use of water is less valuable than urban water use
2. Agriculture community has the water that the urban communities want, but cities don't want to pay agricultural users for the water

Water institutions to preserve:

1. Property rights

What you would do to fix problem:

1. Ensure that ADWR leadership is knowledgeable, trustworthy, and respected. I would give a lifetime appointment to Herb Guenther because I trust and respect him. While I do believe that ADWR plays a key role and should continue and be properly funded, I am more concerned about there being knowledgeable and trustworthy leadership. The leadership of ADWR is key to this issue. They should provide the expertise and respect necessary to provide leadership in this arena. If they do not then the Governor's administration and the Governor, him or herself, will not have the proper advice and guidance. The same will hold true at the legislature. Herb Guenther is a unique individual that commands respect in both the Governor's office, the legislature, and more importantly, in the public. I don't have an answer as to how we insure that type of individual is always available to lead ADWR.
2. Term limits create short-term vision. It does not provide the ability to create a long term vision nor the ability to sell that vision to the public and then remain in office long enough to see it through. I firmly believe the CAP and other major water development projects would never have been built, if not for the length of service of people like Carl Hayden, John Rhodes, Barry Goldwater and others.

Cheryl Lombard, The Nature Conservancy

Perceived water issues:

1. In our lifetimes, we will most likely see one or more of the major rivers in Arizona go dry. Therefore, the problem is how can we best provide for growth and ensure sustainable yield of groundwater to help keep these rivers alive.

Water institutions to preserve:

1. Protect the health of our rivers.

What you would do to fix problem:

1. Complete the Gila and Little Colorado adjudications as soon as possible so there is certainty about water rights and have the ability to consider market-based approaches to securing water.
2. Provide for a regional water management framework outside of AMAs where water infrastructure funding is tied to commitments to achieve long-term sustainable yield of water for communities and rivers.

Lee Wilkening, Phelps Dodge

Perceived water issues:

1. Unlimited growth in rural Arizona
2. Adequate water supply program is inadequate water management
3. High cost of importing water
4. Development of agricultural lands will result in inability to grow food

Water institutions to preserve:

1. Preserve existing water rights

What you would do to fix problems:

1. Assured water supply program statewide
2. More resources for ADWR
3. Offer incentives to use poor quality water
4. Revisit interbasin transfers of groundwater

Keith Larsen, Arizona Water Company

Perceived water issues:

Cliches: Don't put the cart before the horse; One size fits all; Water flows uphill to money; Rome wasn't built in a day

1. Don't put cart before horse
 - a. Inadequate data and how do we get it
 - b. HB2277 good start, but don't legislate what we can't do
 - c. Do not implement regulations that are not enforceable
2. One size fits all
 - a. Assured water supply program is good, but may not work for everyone in rural Arizona
 - b. Empower local areas
 - c. Create local districts
3. Water flows uphill to money
 - a. Big projects cost big money
 - b. Rural areas need population base or will need funding assistance
 - c. Balance regulations with growth. Too much regulation too early may stifle growth and economy
 - d. Regulations need to be incrementally adopted and implemented
4. Rome wasn't built in a day
 - a. GMA and CAP took many years to develop and implement
 - b. Initiate process for beginning discussions on necessary large projects for rural Arizona
 - c. It takes time from concept to realization of any large infrastructure project. We won't be able to fix everything at once

Yvonne Hunter, APS

Perceived Water issues:

1. Lack of shared understanding of water issues
2. Lack of shared vision on what necessary actions need to occur
3. Lack of coordination within the State and also with neighboring states.
 - a. Neighboring states perceive Arizona as having lots of water
4. How to balance growth with economy with water in participation with regulated utilities
5. Cost of water

Water institutions to preserve:

1. ADWR and ADEQ programs that work well
2. Protect existing water rights
3. Protect riparian areas

What you do to fix the problem:

1. Enhance ADWR and ADEQ
2. Develop regulatory tools to help rural areas
3. Champion conservation programs
4. Shared vision
5. Enhance recharge and make it easier to implement

Jake Flake, State Senator

Perceived water issues:

1. All of rural Arizona is perceived by many to have serious water problems. This is not so. Only a few places in rural Arizona have serious water problems. They always have had and probably always will have. They simply must learn to plan deal with their problems.
2. There is not a one size fits all solution. Every area needs to deal with their own separate challenges.
3. The State and DWR need to be a resource to water districts in rural Arizona, but not take over their management with a statewide AMA. Statewide AMA is the worst thing that could happen.

Water institutions to preserve:

1. Local control
2. 1980 water law - It may need to be tweaked, but it certainly "ain't" broken.

What you do to fix problem:

1. Help rural Arizona water systems have the data they need to know how much water they have ad how fast they are using it. DWR can be a resource to help rural water systems.
2. Have money available for loans, not grants, for water infrastructure in rural Arizona.
3. Make water by improving our watershed. Our forests are a jungle. That's where most of the State's water is going.

Carl Taylor, Coconino County

Perceived water issues:

1. Lack of aggressive statewide conservation effort
2. Lack of authority in city and county governments to regulate land-use based on water
3. Lot splits and no authority to prevent
4. No funding to protect riparian areas
5. No local governing authority over private water companies
6. Growing Smarter good start, but needs to be expanded
7. No teeth in water legislation
8. Pending Indian water rights settlements

Water institutions to preserve:

What you do to fix problem:

1. Give authority to counties to include water in land use planning and decisions
2. Mandate conservation
3. Develop water law with regulatory teeth
4. No approval of large water projects without maximum conservation efforts being employed
5. Adequate funding for ADWR
6. Support watershed partnerships

Spencer Camps, Homebuilders Association

Perceived water issues:

Water institutions to preserve:

What you would do to fix problem:

1. Look at how to move water around more effectively
2. Make available more funding from the State
3. Within AMAs and outside of AMAs evaluate how to incorporate effluent into water management more effectively

4. Balance affordable housing and water – Growth to pay fair share, but must be balanced

Pat Call, Cochise County

Perceived water issues:

1. Lack of funding for ADWR
2. Lack of clear understanding of ADWR authority
3. Groundwater surface water uncertainty
4. More local control
5. Managing growth to water supplies
6. Lack of funding sources
7. Lot splits
8. Exempt wells and their impacts on stream flows
9. Cross-country cooperation

Water institutions to preserve:

1. An enhanced version of ADWR and ADEQ

What you would do to fix problem:

1. State funding for water issues and infrastructure
2. Coordination between ADWR, ADEQ, ACC
3. Impact fees to address water conservation/mitigations issues.
4. Water conservation
5. Storm and rainwater harvesting
6. Develop rural augmentation program
7. Regional water management authority - must have authority to effect change

Dennis Rule, Tucson Water

Perceived water issues:

1. Clearly enough water for the State – problem is water is not usually where you need it or it is already being used
2. High costs of infrastructure
3. Lack of infrastructure financing capability because of relatively small population base
4. Political – Ensure water is already being managed appropriately before importing additional supplies
5. Rural areas need additional regulatory tools to manage growth, such as something similar AMA controls
6. Wildcat subdivisions/lot splits/exempt wells are major problems
7. Recognition that solutions take time, effort and money

Water institutions to preserve:

1. ADWR, ADEQ, CAP, Water Bank
2. Long-term planning – something that provides security of Assured and Adequate Water Supply programs but may not be the same in non-AMA's
3. Local authority/local responsibility

What you do to fix problem:

1. Require wet water to meet demands and avoid the paper water rights with AMAs because of potential problems with future groundwater declines
2. Be careful about managing on basis of basin-wide safe yield, because this may cause a problem in some basins. Demands for growth should be met with long-term sustainable supply

3. Balance property rights with public rights
4. Change current water law to recognize equity verses political expedience

John Munderloh, Prescott Valley

Perceived water issues:

1. Unequal access to water supplies created by institutions, such as exempt wells, in or out of an AMA, etc
2. Financial issues, the have and the have nots in rural Arizona
3. Water rights conflicts – adjudication
4. Environmental juggernaut

Water institutions to preserve:

1. Economic vitality of rural Arizona – more tenacious than urban – need more than recreational and tourism
2. Existing water rights
3. Private property rights

What you do to fix problem:

1. Level playing field with regards to accessibility of water
2. Allow water to develop as a commodity – then market place dictates value of water and where it is to go
3. Interbasin transfers, but only after optimizing current supplies
4. Local control with ADWR oversight
5. Remove emotional content from discussions

Sid Wilson, Central Arizona Water Conservation District

Perceived water issues:

1. Growth will exceed water supplies in some areas
2. Increased competition for supplies from all water use sectors
3. No clear plan for managing growth
4. Rural areas do not have financial capability to import water
5. Water flows uphill to money
6. Too much outward focus without inward accountability
7. ADWR has too little resources for the amount of responsibility they have and the legislature is unwilling to provide enough resources so ADWR needs to prioritize work and let go of lower priorities.

Water institutions to preserve:

1. ADWR, but redirected
2. Groundwater Management Act – expanded to establish AMA's in rural areas with critical water supply issues
3. Water rights structure should be retained

What you do to fix problem:

1. Need a new scope or direction for ADWR and the resources to accomplish scope
2. Implement a process for collaboration rather than independent protectionism
3. Begin thinking about big projects, such as the desalter
4. Better process for dealing with competition between environmental and people needs
5. Implement greater augmentation and conservation
6. Pursue Federal/State agency partnerships

7. Groundwater Management Act has worked well so far – it should be expanded or modified and implemented in areas in rural Arizona without sufficient supplies
8. Banish legislative term limits – historical water knowledge base has been lost
9. Educate the legislature on water issues

Bill Dowdle, State Land Department

Perceived water issues:

1. Projected water demands from growth in rural Arizona will result in the value of State lands decreasing because of the availability of little or no water
2. Wildcat subdivisions and exempt wells

Water institutions to preserve:

1. ADWR

What you do to fix problem:

1. Support expansion of ADWR role in rural Arizona

Wade Noble, Yuma County Water Users

Perceived water issues:

1. Every acre-foot of water conserved in Yuma goes to CAP

Water institutions to preserve:

1. Preserve the law of the river

What you do to fix problem:

1. Use every means to augment supply

Ron Doba, City of Flagstaff

Perceived water issues:

1. Water demand from growth will exceed available supplies
2. Competition for water supplies
3. Unwillingness of those with water to share

Water institutions to preserve:

1. ADWR
2. Partnerships
3. Private Property rights
4. Recognition of environmental responsibility

What you do to fix problem:

1. Provide incentives for regionalization
2. Statewide conservation with teeth
3. Make ADWR the Statewide Water District to ensure water development and regulation for entire State

Sandy Fabritz-Whitney, ADWR

Perceived water issues:

1. Inadequacy program is inadequate for much of the State and doesn't protect existing or new water users
2. Lack of data to make decisions

Water institutions to preserve:

1. Assured water supply program

What you do to fix problem:

1. Finish adjudication to bring certainty to water supplies
2. Promote planning at the watershed level including all uses in that area
3. Better coordination and cooperation among all water users

Bob Hardy, City of Cottonwood

Perceived water issues:

1. Lack of understanding of the aquifer systems and data pertaining to the groundwater system (exempt well pumpage, water budgets, etc.)
2. Lack of unified regional planning
3. Pending Adjudication
4. No protection of municipal supply sources outside of city boundaries

Water institutions to preserve:

1. Preserve AMA regulations
2. Riparian habitats
3. Private property rights

What you do to fix problem:

1. Allow AMA regulations to be adopted and utilized by rural Arizona
2. Expedite adjudication
3. Local control
4. Funding assistance for studies and projects
5. Complete large scale water projects
6. Remove some restrictions

Carol Klopatek, Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation

Perceived water issues:

1. Continued unregulated population growth and development without an integral and comprehensive plan for water allocation. Expansive growth does not always translate to an economic benefit of an area, and the limiting factor of water needs to be included at a potential future cost.
2. 'Land availability' does not equal nor translate to 'water availability.' Not all natural resources should be transferred with land sales/exchanges/etc. For example, the rights to mineral resources are often not transferred in the sale of land. Water rights should be viewed separately and in context of regional demands and future needs.
3. Lack of legislation and oversight of water uses in rural areas.
4. The missions of ADWR, ADEQ, and State Lands Department (SLD) need to be revamped and integrated so that they are both coherent and cohesive in relation to water issues.
5. The lack of, or in some cases the need for the re-assessment of scientific data on statewide water supplies. For example, a second study at U of A reconfirmed that the 1922 Colorado River Compact allocations were based on one of the wettest periods in the past five centuries. As a result the availability of water supplies are, in fact, being overestimated.
6. Not only 'define' water supplies statewide but take into consideration long-term drought and climate considerations with projections 10, 20, and 50 years into future. Supplies need to be defined and assured based upon agreed factual evidence. Supplies need to be termed 'sustainable' under each scenario.
7. There needs to be some actions prescribed if an "assured" 100 year water supply in an area 'dries up' or was incorrectly predicted?

Water institutions to preserve:

1. AMA's
2. DWR and ADEQ
3. Statewide to the local level, drought planning and effective conservation efforts
4. 100 year assured (sustainable) water supply
5. Water banking and recharge efforts

What you do to fix the problem:

1. Conduct proactive planning rather than reactive planning. Water supplies/sustainability must be based on realistic statewide growth predictions (towns, cities, and unincorporated areas). However, the State, through legislative action, needs to limit growth in places that do not have a secure and sustainable water supply. Plans are negotiable only after a new water source(s) is confirmed and guaranteed for 100 years. This includes private landowners.
2. Part of the 100 year guarantee should include an analysis to determine if and how other established users, including environmental concerns, are impacted. The assurance of the vetted water supply needs to be proved to and approved by the State's experts/scientists.
3. In rural areas that do not have the local capacity, have the State (ADWR?) (through whatever mechanism) confirm whether water is sustainable and determine if and how other established users, including environmental uses, are impacted. Developers should be responsible for the cost of such a study. If done by a private firm, the firm must be certified as an expert in the determination of water resources.
4. Change in current water and land use laws/regulations or development of new laws/regulations as they relate to land use changes. [Outside AMA's lack a set of comprehensive laws/regulations that can be implemented with changes in land use].
5. Proof of 100 year water supplies prior to purchase of land that is to be developed. This may deter from land speculation activities.
6. Require monitoring and reporting requirements for all wells-no exceptions.
7. As land parcels split, exempt wells (rights) cannot be grandfathered to sub-parcels -or- at minimum, not without a 100 year supply guarantee.
8. Better interface needs to be established between local, regional, State and Federal entities.
9. Better regional planning is required regarding economic, total infrastructure needs, and resource consumption.
10. Create a central repository for all data that is available and easily accessible.
11. Increase water banking and recharge efforts
12. Mandate statewide conservation plan for every city, town, and unincorporated area with enforcement by fees
13. Legislate greater authority to both ADWR and ADEQ
14. Create regional AMAs in rural Arizona
15. Increase funding to ADWR and ADEQ to assist rural Arizona communities and landholders
16. Hire the additional experts/scientists to develop the information stated above at ADWR, ADEQ, and SLD .

J.R. Despain, Navajo County

Perceived water issues:

Water institutions to preserve:

What you do to fix problem:

1. Conservation and reuse

III. Presentation on Regional Planning Efforts

Cochise County – Upper San Pedro River Basin

Pat Call, Supervisor for Cochise County and member of the Upper San Pedro Partnership (USPP) made a presentation on the issues in Cochise county (See website for copy of presentation).

After the presentation several questions were asked:

Carl Taylor, Supervisor from Coconino County asked if the County had a hydrologist on staff to conduct all of the studies that were presented in Pat Call's presentation.

Gretchen Kent from Fort Huachuca and also a member of the USPP responded to the question by stating that within the partnership there are numerous hydrologists, geologists and other technical resources available to the USPP to review and conduct studies. Some of the members supplying technical support are ADWR, USGS, ARS, TNC, Ft. Huachuca, BLM, BOR and private consultants under contract to the City of Sierra Vista.

Keith Larson from Arizona Water Company then asked how the County would ensure conservation measures adopted by the County for new subdivisions would stay in effect.

Pat Call responded by stating the conservation methods used to calculate water use for the proposed subdivision and presented to the County during the rezoning process will be captured in the CCR. We are relying on people to continue doing the right thing. It is the County's intent to at least start things off on the right track.

Gretchen Kent then stated the USPP has an extensive groundwater monitoring system in place that will be utilized to track and monitor the new subdivisions to see if water use trends are changing and what might be causing them to change.

Carl Taylor then asked what the difference is between safe yield and sustainable yield.

Carl Robie from Cochise County responded by stating that safe yield only takes into consideration human water uses while sustainable yield takes into consideration all water uses whether human or riparian. Gretchen Kent from Ft. Huachuca then offered the following example: Under safe yield if water demands by humans are 10,000 acre-feet annually and you have a riparian demand of 10,000 acre-feet annually as well, you only have to recharge 10,000 acre-feet of water to be in safe yield. Under sustainability, you would not only have to recharge the 10,000 acre-feet of demand caused by humans, but also the 10,000 acre-feet of demand from the riparian system.

Jay Howe from Safford then asked if County would require monitoring and metering of the wells for the newly proposed subdivisions that fall under the new County ordinance.

Pat Call replied that there would be both metering, monitoring and reporting requirements for the subdivision.

Jay Howe then asked if abusers could be pinpointed.

Pat Call replied yes

Coconino County – Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Group

Ron Doba from Flagstaff and the Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council presented information about the issues in Coconino County (See website for copy of presentation).

Bas Aja, a rancher expressed some confusion as to why the City of Flagstaff would have concerns about water haulers. He stated that his experience has always been that water haulers tend to be much more conservation oriented because of the cost, time and energy it takes to haul water.

Ron agreed with Bas, but asked, should we allow for development if there isn't water available? Ron also stated that several years ago many of the smaller cities and towns refused to supply water haulers because there was a shortage of water in their own systems. This caused all of the haulers to use the Flagstaff facilities, which caused a strain on their system as well.

Jay Howe asked if Flagstaff had a water impact fee.

Ron stated the city is looking at imposing a \$1,500 to \$2,000 impact fee on top of the \$1,500 to \$1,600 water capacity fee that is already in place. The city council will have to determine what they feel is acceptable.

David Snider from Pinal County made the comment that counties are able to impose an impact fee if the county is in the water business.

Senator Flake commented he was surprised that Flagstaff didn't emphasize forest health in their presentation as an alternative for creating more water.

Ron stated that forest health is important to the City of Flagstaff and they have created an advisory group to address the issue of forest health and water production in the Lake Mary watershed. He further stated that Lake Mary hasn't been profiled since the 1970s and so this summer the city, in cooperation with the USGS, will complete another profile of the Lake.

Conclusion

Herb Dishlip commented that both Pat Call's and Ron Doba's presentations are real world examples of what is happening at the local and regional level. From their presentations you can begin to see some of the commonality of the issues their dealing with and also some of the efforts that are being conducted.

IV. Next Meetings

The next meeting will be on June 2, 2006 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Five more presentations from other regions will be made. The meeting after that has been scheduled for June 16, 2006.

Tom Carr commented that we hope to have three examples of regional water authorities/districts in the State presented at the June 16 meeting. The three authorities/districts are the Mohave County Water Authority, the Pinal Water Augmentation Authority, and the former Santa Cruz Valley Water District. We hope to hear about how they were formed, why they were formed, their purpose, what is their governing structure, what is their revenue generating capability, what they have accomplished and how they could be better.

V. Call to the Public

Herb Guenther then made a call to the public for any comments.

Michelle Harrington from the Center for Biological Diversity commented that she was happy to hear that several individuals had brought up the issue of preserving riparian habitat as important. It is important to balance the needs of people with the needs of the environment. Preserving baseflows protects riparian habitat, which must be at the forefront of discussions. Michelle stated the groundwater and surface water laws need to be revised and likes the idea of a statewide sustainable yield requirement. Michelle also commented that she is wildly opposed to getting rid of term limits.

The meeting was adjourned.